

West Jersey Astronomical Society Meeting Minutes for December 16, 2016

10 people in attendance

Start at 8:15 pm

Here again at Virtua in Moorestown, cold outside. Lots of diverse conversations, not necessarily astronomical. Wade disbursing money for holiday party receipts. Bernie and atmospheric shots on screen, recommends OPOD (Optics Picture of the Day). Roger opens meeting, do we want to wait a while for Gary to conduct the election? (yes). Showing an image from Roger of a forever stamp for international mail showing the moon – which side is up? Bernie looking for moon photo to compare to stamp for orientation. Bernie plays Christmas music from his iPad through room's sound system.

Now to the WAS home page. Viewing "Photo Spotlight" and line item about prospects for new moon on 29th, brief span between possible old moon visibility and new (about 19 hr) and then new to young moon visibility (about 15 hr, very difficult). Now to Joe's web page, halo around moon and occultation of Aldebaran on December 12th. Question of which way the moon is moving. Additional images of moon. Recap of older moon images to compare images at low altitude, noting of coloring from atmosphere. Bernie goes over the coloring of upper and lower limbs from atmospheric dispersion, and then green flash and what conditions are needed to see it. Some discussion of the particulars, with more illustration. More of Joe's images of the sun setting, and rocket launches with star backgrounds, trying to ID stars.

Now 9 pm and Gary is here to conduct elections for 2017 officers. Last call for nominations. Names of current nominees listed on screen...

President:	Roger Cowley
Vice President:	Jim Fusco
Secretary:	Bernie Kosher
Treasurer:	Wade Evans

No additional nominations forthcoming, so all candidates are elected by acclamation.

Roger then discusses when the formal business meetings will be held next year considering the gradually shifting moon phases – first or third Friday? Some discussion, then decided that formal meetings in 2017 will be on the First Friday since new moon now tends to be closer to mid-month. That can change in the future as the phases continue to slowly shift.

Finally, a discussion of ecliptic tilt in winter with respect to the full moon's apparent rising position, then a question/discussion about the constellation's formal IAU boundaries as opposed to their informal stick figures and/or drawings.

Time is winding down, adjourn by decay at 9:40 pm.